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Affectionate Competition Gay Athletes Go for the Gold



**In the Eighth District,
Who Gets the Queer
Vote?**

GayCommunityNews

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September 14-20, 1986

Second Black Person Dead by Hanging in East Bay

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

LAFAYETTE, CA — A second Black person has been found dead by hanging in Contra Costa County. Jacquelyn Peters was discovered here on June 24. Peters had been organizing in response to the November 1985 death of Timothy Lee, a young gay man (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 39). Police have ruled both deaths suicides. Some activists question police findings in both cases, and are calling for further investigations.

Peters was found hanging from an olive tree in this almost exclusively white suburb near San Francisco. The events surrounding her death, and in fact the details of her life, remain controversial.

According to the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office and the Peters family, Peters was a Concord housewife who, after a bout with depression, committed suicide.

The Coalition Against Racist, Sexist, and Anti-gay Attacks (CARGA) says Peters was a bud-

ding activist and former journalist. Earlier this year she made a complaint to the NAACP about racial harassment in her apartment complex. Later, she began organizing a local NAACP chapter in response to the Lee death. CARGA argues that she was lynched for asking too many questions about the Lee hanging.

The NAACP, for its part, has been waffling on Peters' death. According to Thordie Ashley, of the Emeryville chapter, the group first denounced Peters' death as a murder motivated by racism. By June 27, however, NAACP lawyer Oliver Jones said suicide was probable in the case.

Ashley said, "We can't afford to challenge this. The family agreed with the police on this. We withdrew because of the family."

"There are a lot of discrepancies in this case," Ashley continued, "but no hard evidence. If there were hard evidence that she had

been killed, I would proceed with this."

Mysterious circumstances in the case include the fact that Peters was not seen for 24 hours before her death, and that an alleged unsigned suicide note hidden in her purse was not found until two days after her death.

"There are many possibilities, and I'm not ruling out suicide," said Andrea, a Louisiana-based Black lesbian activist organizing around Peters' death. Andrea, who prefers to use her first name only, said, "It just doesn't make sense. Why go to Lafayette? Nobody saw her for 24 hours. Now, she had complained of harassment. Now, I'm telling you that if someone has you for 24 hours, they can do anything they want, including going back to your house and getting your red strap." Andrea continued, "I just have a lot of questions. A hanging of a Black person in a public place is a lynching. Somebody has to tell me different."

Andrea and her partner, Diana, are writing an open letter to be placed in East Bay papers, and are asking for support in continued organizing with the purpose of mounting a full investigation. They can be reached at P.O. Box 791058, New Orleans, Louisiana 70179-1058.

The similarity between the Peters and Lee cases is striking. Lee was found hanging from a fig tree in Concord, Peters' home town, on November 2. Lee, a Berkeley resident, had been stranded at the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station in this predominately white city.

Lee's death raised suspicions for many reasons. An alleged suicide

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Jimenez Rally to Target Abortion Vote

By Stephanie Poggi

BOSTON — A mass march and rally for reproductive rights will be held here on October 18. The multi-issue demonstration will focus on Question #1, an anti-abortion referendum item to appear on the state ballot on November 4.

Organized by the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, the Reproductive Rights National Network (Boston), Mobilization for Survival, Boston NOW, and the Alliance Against Women's Oppression, the rally and march will also commemorate the death of Rosie Jiménez. Rosie Jiménez, a Chicana from Texas, was the first known woman to die from a back alley abortion after federal Medicaid funds for abortion were cut off in 1977.

If passed in November, Question #1 would amend the state's constitution to eliminate state funding for abortions for low-income women. It could also pre-

Among the statements in their campaign literature is a rebuttal to the pro-choice statement that Question #1 would deprive poor women of options granted to women with resources. The Coalition for Responsible Government counters, "Welfare funds should be used to help the poor, not abort the poor. Refusing to use tax funds to abort the children of the poor is not unfair discrimination."

To participate in Rosie Jiménez Day on October 18, assemble in Copley Square at 11:30 a.m. The march will take place at noon, and the rally at Government Center at 1 p.m. The rally features music by the Girlillas, Batucada Belles, Semenya McCord and Wannetta Jackson and speakers Carter Heyward, Rhonda Copelon, Iris Garcia, and Gaye Williams, among others. Issues to be addressed at the rally include the lesbian and gay foster care policy in the state, the Supreme Court deci-

Question #1

Nothing in this Constitution shall prevent the General Court (i.e. the Legislature) from regulating or prohibiting abortion unless prohibited by the United States Constitution, nor shall anything in this Constitution require public or private funding of abortion, or the provision of services and facilities therefore, beyond that required by the United States Constitution. The provisions of this article shall not apply to abortions required to prevent the death of the mother.

vent private insurers from covering abortion and would make abortion a crime in the state if federal laws change.

Despite the 80 percent majority in the state that favors abortion rights, recent polls show voters are almost equally split on Question #1, partially due to the confusing language of the amendment.

Proponents of Question #1, who call themselves the Coalition for Responsible Government, have mounted a campaign with a focus on unfair taxation. Apparently, they believe a campaign based solely on opposition to abortion would not be successful.

sion upholding sodomy laws, sterilization abuse, sex education, birth control, childcare and health care.

The event will be wheelchair accessible and a wheelchair accessible van is available for the march route. The event will also be ASL-interpreted for the hearing impaired and a section of the rally will be reserved for Spanish-only speakers.

To join organizing for Rosie Jiménez Day or for the amendment in general, call (617) 782-1056. All are welcome to participate.

Judge calls DSS regs. 'irrational' Gay Men's Suit v. DSS Upheld

Any exclusion of homosexuals from consideration as foster parents, all things being equal, is blatantly irrational — Thomas Morse, Jr., Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — As GCN goes to press, a major victory has been won in the court battle against the foster care policy officially instated by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Governor Michael Dukakis this year.

In a memorandum made public on September 11, Judge Thomas Morse has ruled that the plaintiffs pressing charges against the state have a right to pursue their complaints against DSS. The memorandum was a result of a motion to dismiss the case filed by Dukakis and DSS in April of this year.

The suit against the State and DSS was filed in February of this year by Donald Babets and David Jean, a gay couple from whom DSS removed two foster children; Kathryn Piccard and Catherine Brayden, women who claim to have been affected by the policy; Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD); the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts; and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

In addition to ruling that the case may continue, Morse strongly condemned DSS in the memorandum. "I find it

perplexing," stated Morse, "that DSS, as plaintiffs alleged, approved the plaintiffs as foster parents, placed with Babets and Jean children whose 'emotional and physical condition improved dramatically,' and acknowledged that the quality of care given by Babets and Jean was 'exceptional,' and now comes into court postulating that its preference for married couples is rationally related to legitimate purpose."

"The judge didn't have to go this far," said Anthony Donniger, lawyer for Babets et al. "He said that the [DSS regulations] constitute discrimination between married and unmarried people and that such discrimination is irrational and that any discrimination based on sexual preference is arbitrary and irrational."

"I'm pleased with the decision," agreed Kevin Cathcart of GLAD. "It makes me very optimistic about the way the courts will view those [Babets et al.] claims when the merits of the entire case are put before them. Now we can begin to move forward."

While the judge generally ruled in favor of Babets et al., Donniger said there are some segments of the ruling that he may want to appeal. For example, the judge ruled that the NASW, named as plaintiffs in Babets et al., do have a legal right to be a part of the suit.

Morse also ruled that Governor Dukakis can not be named as a defendant in the case.

Another legal defeat in disabled lesbian's case

Thompson Seeks Publicity to Pressure Minn. Courts

By Stephanie Poggi

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — Legal avenues may be nearly exhausted for a lesbian who has been fighting to visit her disabled lover for over a year (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 42). Responding to her August 11 defeat in the state's appellate court, Karen Thompson stated she now plans "to pursue more public routes" of action. "It's obvious the system is not going to deal with this case," said Thompson, "unless an awful lot of pressure is brought to bear."

Thompson is stepping up the national speaking tour and organizing campaign she began in July of this year. She also plans on producing a documentary and a book about the case and on attracting mainstream media attention.

Thompson's case centers on her claim that she has a right to visit her lover of many years, Sharon Kowalski, and that Kowalski is being denied the right to recovery. Kowalski was severely injured in a car accident nearly three years ago. Donald Kowalski, her father, was

awarded guardianship of Sharon in July of last year. Since that time, he has prevented Thompson from visiting Sharon, despite Sharon's expressed desire to see her lover. Donald Kowalski has also moved his daughter from a facility with a young adult rehabilitation program to a nursing home with no such service.

As Thompson has stressed repeatedly, Sharon Kowalski doesn't have time to wait for the lengthy court proceedings to turn in her favor. The optimal rehabilitation time is in the first two years after an accident. It is already three years after the accident in which Sharon was injured and over one year since Thompson was permitted to see her lover. Although Donald Kowalski has claimed Thompson is detrimental to Sharon, there is substantial evidence Thompson played a crucial role in Sharon's rehabilitation.

Coming in a long line of legal defeats, the recent decision against Thompson in the Minnesota court

of appeals was no surprise. However, the rulings are significant because they set dangerous precedent for other lesbian/gay and disabled rights cases. According to Jane Binder, one of Thompson's attorneys, the court denied all motions brought. These included a motion that Donald Kowalski be found in contempt of court for violating the Patient's Bill of Rights, a law which states people in institutions must be allowed visitors of their choosing. Another motion called for Jack Fena, attorney for Donald Kowalski in the visitation dispute and attorney for Sharon Kowalski in a separate personal injury suit, to be taken off the case due to conflict of interest. Sharon Kowalski's court-appointed lawyer, Tom Hayes, has filed suit against Donald Kowalski on his daughter's behalf in the visitation dispute.

Judge D.D. Wozniak wrote for the court that a guardian cannot be

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News Notes

quote of the week

"It isn't particularly because they are gay [that gay men get attacked], but as a result of being gay they go into an area where it is simply a delight to rob them."

— *an explanation by Boston Police Department Captain John Ciccolo of why so many gay men have been attacked in Boston in recent months. Ciccolo is referring to an area of reeds in the Fenway where some of the attacks have occurred. The police officer added that he "wouldn't go in there [the reeds] without my revolver on. If they [gay men] were walking the streets of the South End they would be no more subject to attacks than anyone else," as reported in the Tab of Boston, September 9, 1986.*

mass. to study sex bias in courts

BOSTON — According to the New York *Times*, the Massachusetts State Legislature has allocated \$121,000 for what is expected to be a two-year study of discrimination against women in the state courts.

Members of the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts proposed the study because of their experiences and the results of studies in New York and New Jersey which indicate that women who appear in court may not be considered credible or taken seriously by judges, lawyers and juries.

"Credibility is of overwhelming importance in delivering justice," said Leslie Plimpton, a member of the group. Without credibility, she said, women may be blamed for violence and rapes perpetrated against them, deprived of adequate funds in divorce settlements, and not be respected as witnesses.

Women who are discriminated against as lawyers must choose between defending their dignity or remaining silent in order to protect the interests of their clients, according to Geraldine Hines, a Boston lawyer. Hines added that she faces double bias as a Black woman. "I once appeared before a judge in Middlesex Superior Court who refused to address me until I showed proof that I was a lawyer, something not requested of any other lawyer there that day," she said.

Chief Judges from Maine, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, Oregon, Colorado and North Dakota who attended a meeting last month in Omaha said they would consider establishing similar panels in their states, according to Lynn Hecht Schaffron, a New York lawyer who directs a national program for judicial education.

— Lyn Rossano

women and aids

BOSTON — Women and AIDS, a one-day conference sponsored by the Fenway Community Health Center, will be held Saturday, October 18. Suffolk University, at 55 Temple Street, will host the event which is the first New England Conference to comprehensively address women's concerns about AIDS.

There will be 30 workshops given by women living and working with AIDS on topics such as Research Ethics, Lesbian Issues, Alternative Insemination and Reproductive Rights, Issues of Race and Class, Home Health Care, Women in Prison and many others.

The effects of AIDS on women in the U.S. and in other countries goes largely unreported. Yet women of every race, class, culture and sexual preference have been touched by AIDS in some way — either as parents, lovers, mothers, wives, sisters, co-workers or friends. Effective educational programs, research and patient care protocols for women have been slow to develop. Conference planners hope that "Women and AIDS" will bring participants closer to finding the support, information and encouragement they need to cope with AIDS at home and elsewhere.

There is a registration fee of \$25 which includes refreshments, childcare and a closing reception for workshop leaders and main speakers. Scholarships and work exchanges are available.

For more information contact Jennifer Walters, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, MA 02115, (617) 267-7573.

— Lyn Rossano

* * *

aids prevention workshop for women

NEW YORK — Gay Men's Health Crisis, a New York-based AIDS service organization, will hold a free AIDS-prevention workshop for women on October 18 at New York University. The workshop is for women who feel they may be at risk for AIDS. Topics for discussion will include alcohol and drug abuse and safer sex practices.

Women wanting more information should contact GMHC, 132 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011, (212) 807-7035.

— Jim Fauntleroy

attention new york prisoners!

NEW YORK — The New York Legal Aid Society is gathering evidence of arbitrary and illegal censorship by the mailrooms and administrations of New York state prisons. If you have experienced such harassment, please send all the information you have, including denial slips and any other relevant forms, to John Boston, Legal Aid Society, Prisoners' Rights, 15 Park Row, New York, NY 10038. This gathering of materials will go on for several months, so future denials are also useful.

— Mike Riegle

pushing deukmejian on aids bias

SACRAMENTO, CA — This state has approved legislation barring job and housing discrimination against people with AIDS, according to the Boston *Globe*.

The measure was approved by the State Assembly by a vote of 42 to 30 and was sent to Gov. George Deukmejian. The bill had passed previously in the State Senate.

In July Gov. Deukmejian vetoed a similar bill, saying there was "no compelling need for the legislation." He also said that the measure incorrectly focused on AIDS and did not include other physical maladies that are officially recognized handicaps.

The new legislation however, includes a lengthy list of physical illnesses, including AIDS. Assemblyman Art Agnos, Democrat from San Francisco, said he hoped the change would lead Gov. Deukmejian to sign the bill.

— Lyn Rossano

JOINT VENTURE BULLETIN

new prisoner support/penpal publications

Persons In Prison Exchange (PIPE), a collective of people encouraging prison reform, alternatives to prison sentencing and the eventual elimination of the prison system as we know it, announces the publication of *PIPElines*. Beginning in October 1986, the new monthly "voices from inside," statements and articles from persons in prison on their situations and their feelings about the criminal justice business; "voices from outside," which will identify organizations and individuals providing services for prisoners and raising consciousness about how the prison business works. For more information, including help with forming support groups for local prison work, write Al Bouchard, PO Box 1668, Asheville, NC 28802.

Joint Venture (JV), the largest group in the country for gay and bisexual male prisoners and their penpals, publishes a monthly *Bulletin* with listings of prisoners, photos, a prisoner art project and other useful information for writing prisoner penpals. Also, to celebrate their first anniversary, they have published "Dear Insider," a booklet on how to get started writing a penpal in prison, what can be sent (and what can't), visits and "coming out" support. This booklet is free with every membership (monthly *Bulletin*) subscription: 3 month trial, \$5; one year, \$15. Single copies of "Dear Insider are \$2. Write Joint Venture, PO Box 26-8484, Chicago, IL 60626.

Transsexuals In Prison (TIP) just published its second newsletter for all gay people and transsexuals in prison and outside. TIP includes articles, legal and medical info and penpals. Rates are 50¢ monthly for TS prisoners or \$6 yearly; non-TS prisoners, 75¢ monthly or \$9 yearly; outsiders, \$2 monthly or \$24 yearly. Send payment to John Prowett, c/o TIP, Box 3541, Little Rock, AR 72203.

— Mike Reigle



sodomy as bad as rape

NEW BEDFORD, MA — Although forced sodomy is legally rape, police here have charged a man with aggravated rape *and* sodomy.

According to the *Standard Times Union*, Warren Combra "is charged with raping and sodomizing [a] woman [on September 4] while her 13-year-old daughter watched." Neither the newspaper nor the New Bedford Police make a distinction between "forced sodomy" and "sodomy" in the case.

Rape and sodomy are both considered felonies by the court.

— Kim Westheimer

randall continues to fight deportation

EL PASO, TX — A U.S. immigration judge has ruled that feminist writer Margaret Randall is subject to deportation because of her criticism of U.S. policy in Central America. Judge Martin F. Spiegel ruled that Randall's writings, most of which deal with the problems of women in Third World countries, are pro-communist and therefore necessitate Randall's deportation. The decision upholds a similar ruling last year by the director of the El Paso sector of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Al Giugni.

According to David Cole, one of the attorneys for Randall and a staff member of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), support for the writer has "only increased as a result of this decision." (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 31) Randall will continue to publicize her case and will appeal the Spiegel decision to a review board within the INS. It will be a year, according to Cole, before a decision is reached by the board.

Randall, who is also a poet and photographer, was born in New York City and moved to Mexico in 1961. She renounced her U.S. citizenship in 1967 because she was mistakenly informed that this was necessary in order to work in Mexico. Randall currently teaches at the University of New Mexico.

To find out more about the case or contribute to Randall's defense fund, write CCR-Margaret Randall, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

— Stephanie Poggi

what ya wanna be

OWENDALE, MI — Free Methodist Church members have picketed the newly opened lesbian camp here.

Camp Whatyawanabe, run by owners of a Detroit women's club, had earlier been harassed by townspeople who objected to the presence of a lesbian camp. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 47)

Responding to the new harassment from the Free Methodist Church, camp director Christina Emons said, "As long as they stay within their legal rights, we'll just wave at them and watch them walk around."

— Lyn Rossano

what's in a name

FERRYSBURG, MI — Concern over connotations associated with the word "fairy" has prompted residents here to consider renaming this town of 2,500 on the shore of Lake Michigan near Muskegon. Irritated by increasing jokes and derogatory comments, Mayor Leon Stille has noted that "some people even refer to the mayor and council as the leading fairies." Voters will decide in November whether or not to change the community's name to West Spring Lake, according to the Milwaukee *Sentinel*.

The "leading fairies" could be reacting against the substantial queer presence in western Michigan, with the annual dyke-filled Womyn's Music Festival in nearby Hart and the gay beach resort Saugatuck, the "Provincetown of the Midwest," only a few hours south on the Lake Michigan coast. In any case, the gay/lesbian Michigan Organization for Human Rights has affirmed the right of residents "to name a town what they want."

— Dan Page

pina says foster children not abused

NEW BEDFORD, MA — According to District Attorney Ronald Pina, there is no evidence that two foster children were abused following their removal from the home of two gay men. Pina coordinated a six month investigation after reports in January of this year that one of the boys told a Department of Social Services (DSS) worker that both boys were sexually abused in their most recent foster home. Implicated in this abuse charge were the children's foster mother, who runs Fair Haven Foster Home, and her thirty-one year old son.

The boys, who are brothers, have been in at least three foster homes since being removed from the home of Donald Babets and David Jean in May of 1985. They are currently residing with their biological mother.

"These little boys have had very hard lives," stated Pina in a press release. "They [the boys] may have some difficulties which could have led DSS to their response to the exaggerated charges they [DSS] were given against the foster home."

The identity of the person who demanded an investigation of the "exaggerated charges" will not be released "as a matter of policy," said Pina.

— Kim Westheimer

Choosing between King and Bachrach. . . or choosing not to vote

Gay Community Divided over 8th District Race

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — While the "straight press" is increasingly claiming that the race for the Eighth District Congressional seat has been narrowed to a fight between Joe Kennedy and George Bachrach, a glance at lesbian/gay and progressive endorsements in that race shows a different story. Clearly, where liberal and progressive lesbian and gay voters are concerned, the battle is between Bachrach and Mel King.

King has been endorsed by the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, Black and White Men Together and the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee. Bachrach has garnered endorsements from the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus and *Bay Windows* newspaper.

GCN interviewed a number of lesbians and gay men who support King, Bachrach or who refuse to support any candidate running as a Democrat or a Republican.

Style or Substance

The many candidates who have competed in this race are usually characterized as a liberal pack. Among the candidates remaining as the September 16 primary nears, King and Bachrach are frequently isolated as being the most progressive of the liberals.

King supporters say he deserves the progressive vote because his years of activism have proven his commitment. "Mel King is more than a politician," asserts Ari Gonzalez, a Latino gay man, who has been active in King's campaign. "He [King] has true integrity. Mr. Bachrach will listen to the political winds of the time."

The sincerity of Bachrach's commitment to lesbian and gay issues has specifically been questioned due to the omission of the Caucus endorsement in campaign literature that lists other endorsements. When asked what the specific dif-

empowers people to get down and do the work." In addition, said Bowen, "He's on the right side of every issue concerning women, youth, jobs and gay stuff."

Bachrach supporters make little distinction between the political stands of King and Bachrach, saying either would "vote our way" on the issues. The major reason to support Bachrach, say his supporters, is that he can get elected.

"I don't think they have major differences," said Steve Tierney, co-chair of the Caucus and a Bachrach supporter. "Both have long histories of being progressive. It's more a matter of style than substance."

"The liberal agenda is equally addressed by King or Bachrach," concurs Ray Gottwald of the Bay State Gay Democrats. Gottwald said his choice to support Bachrach was made on the basis of Bachrach's commitment to lesbian and gay issues and his viability as a candidate.

"If the race were between Bachrach and King, I would endorse King," said *Bay Windows* editor Candace Van Auker, who was responsible for the *Bay Windows* endorsement. But, she added, "King's not in this race in a meaningful sense [and] our votes could send a progressive candidate, one of our strongest supporters, to Congress. We can do nothing less than play to win."

Inherently Racist

The frequently stated assumption that King is not a viable candidate angers many King supporters. "That [assumption] is inherently racist," stated Bowen. "Even though King has been doing the same things [as Bachrach] for longer, Bachrach claims that they have no differences." Bowen pointed to King's experience as a Massachusetts State Representative for ten years, as well as his work to obtain affordable housing in the South End, an area of Boston.

"It burns me up that people will talk about political expediency," said Gonzalez. "Of course he can win. Those who speak as if King can't win don't have faith in King or the system. He can be creative, dynamic and make the system accountable to the needs of the people."

Gonzalez criticized lesbians and gay men who he said are going after "power, politics and prestige. This community is fractured into classism, in color, [and] issues of feminism instead of combining our efforts to eliminate issues. . . . This community still has a long way to go," he lamented.

There is more at stake here than winning the election, continued Gonzalez. To support King is to support grassroots political organizing and the raising of progressive issues. "If there's a major defeat against Mel King, I will not feel defeated," he said. "I would feel the work done was still constructive."

Mandel, with whom King has consulted about issues in the lesbian and gay community and the Jewish community, sees King as having the potential to foster "interracial cooperation" in the Eighth District. "It's important that there be a person of color representing Charlestown, East Boston, Arlington and Belmont in terms of interracial understanding," said Mandel. "King is a very articulate Black politician. In the same way Barney Frank taught people things about the myths of anti-Semitism [King could provide] an increased awareness of how people are prejudiced [against Black people.] It would be a great opportunity."

Splitting the Progressive Vote

From the day King announced his candidacy, even when he was considered a potential front runner, he was accused of splitting the progressive vote. At the time State Representative Tom Gallagher was the candidate most frequently mentioned as being potentially hurt by King's entry in the race. Gallagher, who was thought to have politics most similar to King, was quoted in the Boston *Tab* as being disappointed that King chose to run. Gallagher has since dropped out of the race and thrown his endorsement to Bachrach.

Some lesbians and gay men who view beating Kennedy as the major priority in this race still complain that if King

dropped out, Bachrach would be able to do just that. "I am tempted to say I want Mel out of the race," said Rosemary Dunn Dalton, former co-chair of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance. "I understand the statement he makes about inclusion is important, but ideally it would be nice if he got out."

Van Auker equates a vote for King as a vote for Kennedy, and "I can not endorse Kennedy," she says.

Others believe King's votes would be so split among the other candidates, that Bachrach would not be affected. "I



Susan D. Fleischmann

George Bachrach

do not believe that Mel's withdrawal will lead to a Bachrach win," stated Mandel emphatically. "Some of his votes would go to Kennedy, some people wouldn't vote and some would vote for Carla Johnston or someone else and some would go to Bachrach."

Bowen said if King dropped out her vote would go to Kennedy. "Kennedy would be far more effective [than Bachrach]," she said, "because of his connections. He would immediately be picked up with people his uncle made allies with." Asked if she was concerned about Kennedy's indecision around issues such as lesbian and gay parenting, Bowen expressed hope that he would improve, "I think he has no stand or philosophy on this issue. He needs to do his homework. He's naive."

Breaking from the Ruling Class

Although often ignored, there is a segment of the progressive lesbian and gay community that will not support any candidate aligned with the Democratic or Republican party. As lesbian activist Nancy Wechsler told GCN, "To me it's important to remember that the Democratic Party, as well as the Republican Party, represents the ruling class in this country. Any attempt to change that is not fruitful. People have tried for thirty years. I don't want to participate — it gives people false hope."

Had King run in the Eighth District as an independent, possibly aligned with the Boston Rainbow Coalition that he helped to found, Wechsler would have worked on his campaign. Such a campaign could combine a democratically controlled grassroots organization with participation in a wide range of political activities, she said.

With King's decision to be a Democrat, Wechsler perceives that his political effectiveness has diminished. "He's backed off," she said. "He hasn't put out as clear a political message as I'd like." For example, she elaborated, King as well as the rest of the candidates has neglected to publicly discuss the anti-abortion referendum that will appear on the ballot in the state on November 4. (See article on referendum, this issue.)

In addition, King could have raised more issues as an independent, said Wechsler, because there would have been no danger of his being knocked out of the race at the primaries.



Dan West

Mel King

ferences were between Bachrach and King, openly gay Boston Human Rights Commissioner, Fred Mandel, replied, "I don't have a history with Bachrach. They're not even comparable. They'd probably support the same issues and vote similarly, but Congressional leadership takes more than this. It takes the ability to crystalize issues, take chances, be a liaison to other Representatives and provide good constituent services. I have experience with Mel's ability to do that. I don't think Bachrach has that kind of leadership."

"When I decided to support Mel over a year ago, it was based on a long-term personal and political friendship and the belief that Mel is the most qualified candidate for that office," added Mandel. "King will provide the best leadership on issues of peace, human rights, lesbian and gay rights, an end to discrimination, affordable housing and a whole range of issues."

"I was drawn immediately towards King," said Black lesbian activist Angela Bowen. Bowen said she does not usually take part in electoral politics, but is actively supporting King because "he's an activist in all kinds of ways. He

Hanging

Continued from page 1

note found near Lee's body was largely illegible, and the names of his brother and sister were misspelled. Screams were heard from the direction of the BART station the night of Lee's death. Two Black men were assaulted in Concord that night by two white men in Ku Klux Klan robes. The assailants told police they were not Klan members, but just two men

going to a costume party.

The NAACP, CARGA and the Lee family have been calling for a full investigation into Lee's death. All argue Lee was murdered. The FBI completed an investigation of Lee's death in June, and has forwarded its report to the Justice Department in Washington. That report is expected to corroborate the Concord police suicide ruling.

— filed from Boston

Karen Thompson

Continued from page 1

found in violation of the Patients' Bill of Rights. Rather, he said, only a health care facility can be found in violation. This ruling removes checks on guardian decision making for the ward, endangering all people in institutions in Minnesota, according to Thompson.

In the conflict of interest motion, the court ruled Fena was justified in simultaneously representing and opposing the same client. The ruling was based on findings by the Lawyer's Professional Responsibility Board that the matter should be determined by the court. "They're just passing the buck," said Thompson.

According to Thompson's

lawyer, Jane Binder, the case will now go to the state Supreme Court on appeal. However, as the state's highest court refused in April to hear other aspects of the case, it is doubtful that body will now accept it. Binder said the only remaining legal step will be federal action based on civil rights violations, a process that would take years.

A number of local organizing efforts have begun around the country. Activists are needed to continue publicizing the case and raising funds to offset Thompson's enormous legal costs. A group in San Francisco is now meeting regularly and has distributed over 10,000 leaflets on the case at the recent Gay Games

(see centerspread, this issue, for more on the games). The group is also selling "Free Sharon Kowalski" t-shirts and buttons. In Sacramento, Lioness Books is raising funds for Thompson. A national newsletter on the case is also forthcoming.

Thompson will speak in Washington, D.C., on September 24 and in New York in mid-November. For more information, or to contribute funds, write to MnGALLA, c/o Suzanne Born, 3436 Holmes Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

To join Boston organizing around the case, call Maryanne Kirkbride at (617) 522-7466.

— filed from Boston

**Don't miss the
Bright Morning Star and Tom Wilson Weinberg
concert to benefit GCN, Friday, Sept. 26.**

Community Voices

jobs

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my experiences with mel king

Dear GCN:

September 16 is Primary Day in Massachusetts. On this day voters of the 8th Congressional District have a rare opportunity to elect a truly progressive individual who knows and cares about us more than any other candidate. I urge lesbians and gay men to vote for Mel King. Other GCN letters have pointed out Mel's 35-year history of activism and solid record of achievements. This is important. We need to remember where we've come from and who has been there with us, especially when it has not been popular. This letter is about a few of my own experiences with Mel King.

Living in Jamaica Plain in the late '70s and early '80s, I had seen Mel King often at all kinds of community events. He seemed involved and interested in people, not in making impressions. We had been introduced once or twice but didn't really know each other. At a Wake Up the Earth Festival I remember exchanging hugs with a few lesbian friends. Mel was standing nearby and shyly asked to be included. "Can I have a hug, too?" he said. I was just as shy, but gladly responded, as did everyone else. I was touched by his valuing himself enough to ask to be included, which in turn made me feel valued, an important part of a very real, larger community. Such a simple thing, but so indicative of this man's special ability to get people to reach out of themselves and their "usual" circles, to stretch a bit. And he does this by just being himself.

In February 1981 I was seriously injured at work and became unable to support myself. The following January, a friend hosted a benefit at her home in J.P. to help me out. Along with about 100 other people and their contributions of time, food, raffle prizes, and money, Mel King was there, making his contribution. There was no election going on and he wasn't gathering votes. He was simply there, munching and dancing with the dykes and their friends. While some people were suspicious or even stayed away because of the drug- and alcohol-free nature of the party, others were relieved, even surprised at what a good time they could have without chemicals. The significance of people, especially oppressed groups, defining and claiming their own health and space did not escape Mel. He voiced to my friend his support and pleasure in being at such an event. What some viewed as a strictly personal (and somewhat weird and uncool) choice, Mel King affirmed as positively life-enhancing.

Several years later I participated in a Disabled People's Liberation Front conference at U-Mass., Boston. Mel King, as an invited guest

speaker, did not give the usual patronizing "handicapped" rap. Instead, he urged us to work from our own experiences and truths, rather than someone else's agenda (like that of the government, medical establishment or temporarily able-bodied). He talked about Rosa Parks' refusal to let her dignity be compromised. Since *she* viewed herself as worthy of a seat on any Montgomery, Alabama bus, she could not be moved. It was that self-worth that inspired the successful bus boycott. A powerful lesson for disabled people since inaccessible transportation prevents many of us from even getting on or riding the bus in the first place! Mel urged us to not stay isolated. He challenged us to name ourselves and our needs, and then to move out, engage, and include others in our struggles. To work for real change *as we defined it*, not tokenism.

The realities of being relatively newly disabled, with a hidden but no less "serious" disability, and hearing other's battles had weighed heavily on me that day. I identified with a lot but resisted the fact that I was now a member of yet another oppressed group. Through their own denial, fear, or disbelief, many in my life had contributed to this resistance. But hearing Mel speak, the focus was redirected to what I do have some control over. I left that conference feeling like I have a right and indeed the tools to determine my own way. Not necessarily an easy way, but a way.

Mel King is about stimulating people to find and use the best in themselves, and then to connect with others who are doing that too. This is true leadership. He has the results to prove his effectiveness. I can't imagine, nor have I seen, other candidates even *in* these kinds of situations to begin with, much less providing guidance or issuing challenges. The persistence and mere presence of Mel's work over the years has forced elected officials at many levels to deal with issues they would rather have ignored. Ironically, some have claimed credit for the fruits of this work once it seemed more "in favor," such as the Boston Jobs for Residents Policy.

Don't put your faith in the polls, (when was the last time they called you?) If everyone who says they believe he's the best candidate voted for Mel, he would win. We all would win. When we let the polls, the media, and the con of "electability" fool us, we've given up more power than we ever used. Mel King is the winner. Send him to Congress on September 16.

Sincerely,
Margo Dowzer
Watertown, MA

barrett's solid track record

Dear GCN:

Allston/Brighton, Cambridge, Watertown and Belmont residents ought to vote for Mike Barrett for state senator on September 16, notwithstanding the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance's endorsement of Olivia Golden. Consider these three reasons.

While Olivia has good positions on issues, only Mike Barrett, as a former state representative, has a *solid track record* of accomplishments on issues of concern to us. Mike Barrett's record speaks for itself; there'll be no bad surprises with him.

Second, as Barney Frank says, "Mike Barrett is so decent a human being with such a deep commitment to the right values, that we must not miss this chance to elect him."

As a representative from a not-so-liberal district, Mike Barrett has been consistently outspoken and active in support of gay/lesbian and women's concerns over the years. He has demonstrated that he'll go out on a political limb for what's *right*, even if it's not always politically expedient. Mike Barrett has proven that he is worthy of our trust.

Third, the only real choice in this race is between Mike Barrett and David Holway, the worst kind of conservative Ed King Democrat.

While there are six names on the primary ballot, the rest of the pack is trailing far behind

Barrett and Holway. Although Olivia Golden won't win, she can take enough progressive votes away from Barrett to cause Holway and the Ed King Democrats to win. This is the reality of the situation.

Mike Barrett alone has emerged as the clear consensus candidate of progressive women, men and groups: Sandra Graham, Mary Jane Gibson, Barney Frank, Black Political Task Force, CCPAX, Mass. Tenants and others. (Indeed, a great many Alliance members still support Mike).

With all due respect to the Alliance, it endorsed Golden last winter before it was clear how this race was shaping up. Since then, Barrett is the *only* progressive who can *win* this race.

Mike Barrett deserves and needs our votes. He's as good, maybe better than Golden on all the issues. But Mike is clearly the better candidate when considering his solid track record, his remarkable decency and commitment to what's right, his broader support among progressives, and his ability to win.

Please join me in voting for Mike Barrett for state senator in the Democratic primary on September 16.

Sincerely,
Michael Scully
Allston, MA

lesbian prisoners
need legal help!

Dear GCN:

Thought I would write you an update letter on Jo and my status in this prison. We are aware we have a discrimination case and we would like to have our story printed and let this prison be aware that we are not afraid of them and that we will fight back for our lesbian and gay rights.

We have been threatened a number of times. They keep my wife and I from working on our case because they do not want us by ourselves together in the law library. They are insinuating that we would 'have an affair together.' They have kept us apart for 2 years while all the other homosexuals are in the same unit together. We were told we wouldn't be together because of our marriage, "but maybe if after 5 years or so, if we stay good etc. etc."

They have my wife and I on a "mental health" unit now, which is what you would call the nut unit. Do you think we need to write Dear Abby on this one. (smile)

When we first came here they forced drugs on us even though there was no court order. It was mental nut pills, which was 'cruel and unusual punishment' for being gay. The only way my wife got off of them was she told them to put her in the hole and she would contact an attorney. (An officer told her to do this for her own good.) I got off mine when they started affecting me physically and I started passing out anywhere I was at when these feelings hit me. I started hollering that they were hurting me and my boss at work here, who likes my work, helped me get off them.

They don't let my wife visit with my family and me on the same day because they do not have gay rights in Arkansas. As far as they are concerned we are not married and are only 2 single girls doing time together.

We feel close to the GCN paper for the help you have shown us, and we would like you to let the outside world know our story so that we can get some legal help to go back to court and get our time reduced or get acquitted. We are in a state pen and we should at least be in a federal place since our first charge was kidnapping and robbery. When they booked us they asked if we wanted to do fed time or state time and we both said fed but the feds were never notified regarding our case. We have wrote letters out to them but have never heard back and don't know if the letters ever got received.

We have been studying our case since we have been here and need help. We know we have a lot of legal errors in our favor, but because of our marriage and the nature of our case and because we are gay and from a prejudiced town and state we are here. We are even a little afraid for our lives because they are afraid of our relationship and the example our love sets for others. Please someone help us.

Your friends,
Judy and Jo
[Judy McNece, 2591, 8000 W. 7th, Unit 7,
Pine Bluff, AR 71603-1498

white-skin
privilege

Dear GCN:

I read Sara Karon's review of *The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Women's Anthology* edited by Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz and Irena Klepfisz with great pleasure — until I reached the last paragraph.

As an assimilated Jewish Ashkenazi woman, I have grounded much of my politics, my commitment to resisting victimization, in the fact that my German Jewish grandmother's assimilated family was destroyed by the Nazis. Being Jewish was all that mattered. I continue to be disturbed, however, by the refusal of many sociologically similar American Jewish women to accept the realities that accompany our white skin, regardless of the tragedies of our shared history.

Just as I assume that all Christians, practicing or not, should acknowledge the anti-Semitism that is their legacy in an anti-Semitic country, so, too, I believe that white-skinned Jewish women should admit that we have inescapably absorbed our society's racism, and that we benefit from the fact of our white skin whether we support racism or not. White-skin privilege cannot be left behind by trying to define ourselves out of the "oppressor" class into a less repugnant one, in this case by claiming "non-white" status.

All of this is not about greater or lesser suffering; I am talking about responsibility rather than guilt. My experience has been that long-term change and growth — the political transformations we are working towards — have a much greater chance of occurring when real differences and the powers attached to them are accurately named and addressed.

Sincerely,
Nancy K. Bereano
Ithaca, NY

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED and limited to five typed pages. Send to Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

GayCommunityNews

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(left) Susan D. Fleischmann
(right) Debbie Rich

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Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Substance Abuse:
What Do We Do?

By Craig Jackson

Of all my experiences at the recent National Association of Black and White Men Together Convention probably the part that affected me the most, and will be remembered the longest, was the discussion on substance abuse that took place Wednesday afternoon. I had attended this session for two main reasons. First and most importantly, I wanted to know how best to support friends who had problems with alcohol. However, I also wanted to question what I felt had been an unfortunate equation of marijuana with other drugs. Though I did get some answers to these questions, what I really got out of this session was something entirely different and unexpected.

The session began with a brief discussion led by Billy Deegan and Gilberto Alvarez on the problems of drug abuse, the ways in which alcoholics and drug abusers can resist their affliction (particularly through groups like AA), and the need for all of us to provide a supportive environment.

It was pointed out that as wonderful as the boat ride was it was an extremely unsafe place for persons who were "on the wagon." In an atmosphere where drinks and drugs were prevalent, there was nowhere on that boat that was a "safe space"; Billy further mentioned that he knew persons who had succumbed to the temptation. Later on it was suggested that this situation could have been ameliorated by having part of the boat set aside as drug and alcohol free.

We were then self-divided into three smaller groups — one for those who wanted to share individual problems, another for those who wanted to discuss substance abuse of family members and friends, and a third group who wanted to discuss how best BWMT

could provide "safe space."

Since I had not gotten to ask my questions regarding drug use, I chose the group that was going to discuss personal substance abuse. This decision was further prompted by some nagging thoughts that were beginning to surface in my own mind as to whether I had in fact been a substance abuser, with regard to drugs.

It was not a totally comfortable decision for me. As John said, "Why are you in that group? You don't even drink!" I seriously wondered whether it was fair for me to listen to others "open up" if I had not really experienced similar problems. Fortunately, the members of the group were very supportive and in no way did they make me feel like an "intruder."

As the discussion went on and I listened to members share their pain and anguish, how their lives had been nearly ruined by alcohol and/or drugs, and how they still were teetering on the edge of ruin, no matter how long they had been "free," I was deeply moved, as were all of us. But I also began to look at my own life to "discover" why I don't drink. In doing so, I began to ponder whether I might be as Billy had said earlier, "an alcoholic who doesn't drink."

I shared memories of my college days when I used to drink at parties my friends had. Since I usually came alone and was by nature pretty serious, drinking helped me get into a party mood. Indeed, I often felt I was "the life of the party."

One day I asked my friend, Linda, to come with me, since she already knew some of the people. However, as I drank more and more, and felt better and better, Linda walked out! Later, when I was sober but still upset over her leaving, she convinced me that what I was doing to myself was not good for me and emphasized that she would never allow herself to be put in that position again. At the time Linda was probably my best friend, and though I know I drank occasionally after that, I don't remember ever having drunk excessively.

As I remembered and shared these experiences, I began to wonder what would have happened if Linda had not walked out. What if she, like my other friends, had thought it's good for Craig to loosen up now and then; he's always so serious. Would I like so many others have slipped over that drinking precipice, that once over, one can climb back up only with great difficulty, but can never move back from the edge.

I also, for what seems to be the first time, realized how much of a true friend Linda had been to me. She had risked the loss of our friendship to awaken me to the danger I was facing.

The tearful eyes of some of us continued into the evening as we formed a panel discussion to be videotaped for a substance abuse program sponsored by BWMT-Philadelphia. Some persons I had heard earlier; others had either not participated in the afternoon discussion or had been in other groups. Most of us discussed our own individual problems, but some did not — one individual relived guilt feelings he had had long ago. Not going home one weekend, he subsequently discovered his alcoholic parents had died in a fire caused by smoking in bed.

Am I an alcoholic? When I jokingly say, "One beer will put me under the table," is there more truth in that statement than I have even been able to admit? While I may not have gotten the answer to that question from this session, it certainly convinced me I never want to know. Much more importantly, however, I began to understand that the true friend of the alcoholic and/or drug abuser may be the one who "walks away."

Craig Jackson is the Co-Chair of Black and White Men Together in Boston.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

Community Voices

my beautiful laundrette true to life

Dear GCN:

Once again I take McIntosh in hand to write to you about *My Beautiful Laundrette*.

Nicholas Deutsch and I are much closer together than it may have seemed. I had seen the movie twice when I wrote my first letter commenting on his review; I've now seen it 5 times and will see it a 6th next week with a friend from out of town. Obviously, I believe the movie rewards careful viewing! Rereading my first letter, I agree with Deutsch that it showed some naivete. But my point was that many of the earliest gay reviews didn't make sense of it because they were too quick to judge it.

The movie is a sleeper. I keep waking up to new facets of it; I toss and turn at night enjoying my memories of it. In my first letter, I said that the movie shows how gay people really live. Now I would say instead that the movie has captured perfectly the way most gay people come out: slowly but definitively, starting in a heterosexual context but moving towards a gay-identified one, with the pervasive, Alice-in-Wonderland feeling that comes from doing obviously gay things in front of heterosexuals who really ought to see what's going on.

At a recent gay students' group meeting, I heard the coming-out story of a college lesbian. Her story began as countless others do: vacation, should-I-tell-them-now, and getting asked about her boyfriend (with whom she had recently broken up). It continued along more recent, but still familiar, lines: she told Mom she was seeing this "person" who was very nice and she and this "person" were seeing a lot of each other, and so on. But it ended in a completely new way: her mother's next sentence was, "So you're dating a woman. Fantastic! Tell me more about her." The gay students listening cracked up — as did I — at this line and the next: "You see, my mother's a clinical psychologist."

Now *think*, heterosexuals, *think*. No heterosexuals, no matter how liberated, say "person" when "he" or "she" will do perfectly well. Accordingly, if your daughter starts getting pronoun-inspecific it is perfectly obvious where her preferences lie. But time and time again, the "person" trick works, because it permits your everyone-is-heterosexual fantasies to persist. We know how important those fantasies are to you and your kind.

In fact *Laundrette* is full of heterosexual mystification. Johnny and Omar are leading a gay life exactly as open to inspection as that lesbian student's is. They're not lying, they're just being quiet about the truth — but they don't have fathers who really want to know what's going on. Several times in the movie, heterosexual characters act as if they've just realized the nature of Johnny and Omar's relationship, but then they turn right around and act as if they've forgotten. And so they fall flat on their faces acting as if that relationship is unimportant and easily ignored. They slight the boys or try to manipulate them and learn, at their cost, that that relationship is far more important than they ever imagined. And *that's* something I think almost every gay person today can empathize with — even if you think of yourself as 100% out of the closet, read *Gay Community News* instead of *Bay Windows*, wear a button that says "Warm fuzzy dyke" rather than "I'm one too," or have *In Touch* on your coffee table rather than *After Dark*. Heterosexuals are constantly minimizing and belittling the importance of our relationships to us, at great Dukakis and his honchos created the foster care

cost to themselves. That's why, for example, controversy in the first place, and then were caught by surprise at the intensity of our reactions.

Those who prefer *Parting Glances* to *Laundrette* are welcome to their opinion; *Laundrette* shows where we came from, *PG* shows where we went. I liked *PG*, but I wasn't given the chance to see it 5 times in this town; it was mispromoted by the Brattle Theater and presumably also by its distributors. Those who prefer *PG* seem to like its nitty-gritty realism; I prefer *Laundrette's* fantasy.

What's that, I say? I just said I like the fantasy, but I began by praising *Laundrette's* realism. Sounds mixed up, eh?

Well, it is. *Laundrette* — like most movies — has several improbable scenes. In fact, the whole movie is improbable: how many trendy laundrettes do you know that make their owners a bundle of money? How many naughty Pakistani daughters pull up their sweaters and display their breasts at a party in an attempt to seduce a cute Paki boy? But what amazes me is how smoothly those things go down each time I see them coming. I don't know why this is, but it is so. I guess I must be in love.

As a photographer, I am certainly in love with the scene where Johnny and Omar kiss for the first time. (The symbolism that goes by quickly when you first see *Laundrette*, and it gets ever more beautiful the 4th, 5th, and, I presume, 6th time.) Walking down a dark alley, Johnny stops, then gently pulls Omar into the deepest shadows. You can just barely see them beginning to kiss, and you quickly realize it's the longest kiss you've seen in the movie. (Believe me, the director knew exactly how long every kiss he kept off the cutting-room floor lasted.) Then the camera man opens up his lens, and without moving an inch Omar and Johnny come out into a hot red light. I'll bet that there are a lot of heterosexuals watching that scene who *still* think that's the first time you "really know" that Johnny and Omar are gay. Hah!

Finally, I want to point out the profoundly moral tone the movie sets. The worst racist in the movie — Omar's gangster Uncle Salim — is the one who gets beaten the worst. The one who is most out of touch with reality — his other uncle, who says London is "a little bit of heaven" for Pakistanis — is given one twenty-fourth of a second (i.e., one movie frame) before the fatuousness of his remark is laid bare. The most truthful character — Omar's father — starts in the pits and ends up on top (morally, anyway) as the movie's most admirable personality. And most importantly of all, the heterosexual couple — whose relationship is one of the most sensitively-shown ones I've seen in a movie — breaks up at the end of the movie, because it is based upon hypocrisy, but Johnny and Omar's relationship endures, because it is based upon truth.

I am now able to tell you the less naive reason why this movie is so true to real life: it starts in the closet, but it doesn't end there. Out it comes, in every conceivable way — but that's not surprising, because even if you're out enough to read *Gay Community News* you know coming out is a life-long process. As Salim's wife says the first time she meets Omar, "I'm so sick of these in-betweens — people should make up their minds where they are." On the eve of tomorrow's Gay Pride march, I think that's worth a hurrah.

Sincerely yours,
James Donald

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Movie Moguls Mix Gay Flicks into Het Fest

By Michael Bronski

When the Orson Welles Theater burned down last May, the Third Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, slated for mid-June, seemed also to go up in smoke. And although there is some talk of the Festival making an appearance when the Welles re-opens this Fall, for the time being the plans are vague. What we do have in the mean time is the Second Annual Boston Film Festival: while there is no mention of gay or lesbian in its title, there are plenty of films which will be of great interest to both the gay and women's communities.

The Boston Film Festival made

an inauspicious debut last year garnering very little press and showing few films of great interest. (The one exception was the premier of Paul Schrader's *Mishima*.) This year the Festival is much better organized and will feature more than 60 films — all of them Boston firsts — ranging from big-deal Hollywood features to undiscovered independent surprises.

Probably the most noted gay film that will be screened is Derek Jarman's *Carravaggio*. Jarman is most famous for his *Sebastiane*, a 1978 retelling of the legend of St. Sebastian. It was noted for two

main reasons: it was the first (and probably the only) film totally in Latin, and, at a time when male nudity was still pretty much taboo it was unafraid to show both saints and sinners unclothed, and, in some instances, carrying on wildly. But beneath its cult exterior, *Sebastiane* was also a meditation on Christian symbolism and homoeroticism.

Carravaggio follows in the same vein, but is deeper and more complex. Based on the life of Renaissance painter Michaelangelo Carravaggio, the film is a Proustian reflection of both the man and his paintings. Lushly photographed and filled with male flesh, *Carravaggio* is at the same time highly erotic and serious in its exploration of how the artist shapes life and vice-versa. The emphasis here is on the vice since Carravaggio was noted for his trade and street fighting.

Carravaggio is a perfect festival film because it is serious and looks like art. The Mexican *Hell Without Limits* is the sort of film that needs a festival. Made by Arturo Ripstein several years ago, it has been viewed as uncommercial and will probably not have a regular run when the festival is finished. A brief plot description makes it sound interesting but cannot do justice to the film's depth or passion. A young drag queen comes to a rural brothel and, on a bet, has sex with the madam. They have a daughter and after the madam dies, both father and daughter run the business. As time goes on both develop an obsession for the same truck driver and a mayhem ensues.

The material could be straight out of Tennessee Williams and the camera work seems borrowed from Fassbinder but *Hell Without*



Nigel Terry in *Carravaggio*

Limits is not derivative of anyone. Sometimes shocking and more often than not heartbreaking, it is everything that *Kiss of the Spider-woman* managed not to be. The main performance by Roberto Cobo as the drag queen "Manuela" is breathtaking and all

of the other performers work together in a powerful ensemble.

The Brazilian *Happily Ever After* begins with a great idea but loses track of what it is trying to do. A well-off married woman with a career suddenly finds her-

Continued on next page

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Movie Moguls Mix Gay Flicks into Het Festival

Continued from previous page

self obsessively drawn to a young, attractive, bi-sexual, transvestite hustler. She leaves her husband and children for a week and tries to live out her fantasies.

Directed by Bruno Barreto (he is most famous for the very good *Dona Flora and Her Two Husbands* and the tepid, but attractive *Gabriela*), *Happily Ever After* wants to be both shocking and sensible at the same time. Like its heroine, the film wants its fantasy but is afraid to go too far. The best thing in the film is Boom-Boom, a plump, ever-agreeable transvestite who has been keeping the hustler. Looking and acting like Spring Byington on acid, she is the one sign of authentic life in the film.

If *Happily Ever After* refuses to go with the chances that its premise sets up, the same cannot be said of the documentary *Dances Sacred and Profane*. Made by independent filmmakers Dan and Mark Jury, the center of the film is an extended interview with Fakir Musafar, an American who has been exploring, for years, Eastern and Native American rituals of body piercing and meditation in order to expand his own body and mind consciousness. Once you see Musafar's body — which is covered with piercings from several in his nose to half a dozen in his penis — you know that this is a man who is *not* dabbling. The film treats him respectfully and he explains, lucidly and honestly, his spiritual quest.

The highlight of the Musafar

interview is a record of his performing the Sioux Sundance Ceremony. Most people know this from the recreation that appeared in the Richard Harris film *A Man Called Horse*, but this is the real thing as Musafar hangs from a Cottonwood tree suspended by hooks which have been inserted through his chest muscles. *Dances Sacred and Profane* will be of special interest to the s/m community, not only because of the body piercing but because Musafar speaks at length of the connection between physical pain and psychic transcendence. This is the same material that was covered in Geoff Mains' book *Urban Aboriginals* several years ago, but presented more straightforwardly, and with rather graphic illustrations. (For those who want a preview, check out *Drummer* #96 for several pages of pictures of Musafar wearing some of his more unique accessories.)

Also in the documentary category is *Divine Waters*, an hour-long documentary by Italian filmmaker Vito Zagarro on the life and work of that purveyor of filth, filmmaker John Waters. The film features interviews with Waters and his family (who have only seen one of his films) and his stars. *Divine Waters* will be presented as part of an all night orgy of Waters' most famous movies and will feature an appearance and question-and-answer session with Waters himself.

Two films which are not "gay" *per se*, but are of interest to gay au-

diences are Paul Verhoeven's *Flesh and Blood* and Zolt Kezdi-Kovacs *Forbidden Relations*. *Flesh and Blood* is a sprawling medieval epic by the man who has made *The Fourth Man* and *Spetters*. Although it has a great look to it, a spunky heroine, and a gay couple who are involved in a revolt against a local tyrant, the film never really works because the English dialogue is false and silly.

Forbidden Relations concerns an affair between a half-brother and -sister in the Hungarian coun-

tryside. Although they are constantly harassed, and imprisoned twice, they continue to live together and raise a family. It's a slow film, but worthwhile for its examinations of two people who put their desire before their national allegiance and common sense. It is also one of the few looks we have had at Hungarian sex and politics.

Other films which have some gay interest (but which have not been screened before hand) include *Mala Noche*, a comedy set

on Portland Oregon's skid row; the film has been praised by Vito Russo and has been popular at gay/lesbian film festivals. *Pervola — Tracks in the Snow*, is a Dutch film about two brothers, one gay and one straight, who come to terms with each other and their family when they return home for their father's funeral. Bertrand Blier (*Get Out Your Handkerchiefs*, *Beau Pere*) has another odd sex comedy in *Menage* which features the usually macho Gerard

Continued on page 10



Woman at work in *Working Girls*

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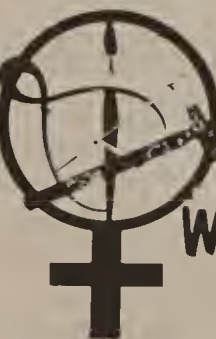
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Gay Games II: An Extravaganza for Eye, Body, and Soul



Steve Savage



Steve Savage

By Yvonne Keller

Upon winning the Gay Games II men's volleyball championships, Miami team captain Hector Martinez was asked what it felt like to win the gold. With a classic statement of the athletic high, he responded, "It's like riding an electric chair going right up to heaven!" Just moments before, Martinez caught the gay essence of the Games as he and his teammates hugged — not just shook hands politely but hugged with genuine warmth — the defeated second place team.

Loyal to both the traditions of athletics and of gayness, the Games were a unique synthesis of competition and closeness, of the aim for excellence side by side with outreach towards the disenfranchised.

Gay Games II is over, and it will be much missed. This second gay olympics, from August 9 to the 17th, filled San Francisco's Kezar Stadium and environs with 3,500 athletes from 17 countries and 261 cities. From 17 to 70 years of age, they competed in 18 events, with both men's and women's events in everything except wrestling. The Games were anchored on both ends by the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and supported by the week-long Procession of the Arts, the cultural events of the Games.

The planning for Gay Games II started in 1982, at the close of the first Gay Olympics. The Gay Games were budgeted at \$250,000, of which the City of San Francisco contributed \$30,000. With the exception of Broadway star Jennifer Holliday, all performers donated their talent.

Opening Ceremonies

Able emceed by Rita Mae Brown, the Opening Ceremonies set the stage for the week ahead. From the beginning the ultimate point was clear: gay pride. As Shawn Kelly, the executive director of Gay Games II, said, "Gay Games II addresses the very core of gay liberation: coming out. Thousands of participants and spectators, from all over the world, will stand up and say, 'This is who we are.'"

The first Gay Games had welcomed 1300 athletes. This show involved more than 2000 performers, 500 volunteers, and nearly 3500 athletes. The opening highlight was the Parade of Athletes — a concrete expres-

sion of pride that lifted the crowd to a continuous standing ovation throughout its length. As both the biggest team (with 1895 contestants) and the home team, California came last, and received the most applause.

It was a long, enjoyable festival. The mayor of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein, welcomed the crowd to San Francisco. Dr. Thomas Waddell, Gay Games founder and President of its current Board of Directors, also spoke. Waddell had participated in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics as a decathlete, and loved it. Because of his positive experience he conceived the idea of a Games for lesbians and gay men. As the acknowledged visionary of the Games, his presence as an Olympic athlete and guiding hand had been essential to both Gay Games.

There was much dancing, singing, and ceremony. The cold foggy weather was dismissed with a joking, "Welcome to the First Gay Winter Games!"

Rita Mae Brown was an excellent hostess. While the mostly male baton twirlers and pom-pom tossers pranced out onto the field, she quipped, "Why do only the men get to wear all the great costumes around here?" She also reminded us all of our past. "Remember when you thought you were the only one?" The massive presence of thousands of gay people, like at all our annual Pride parades, made that memory a healed wound.

The Gay Games Torch Relay demonstrated a most impressive testimonial to the Games' spirit of cooperation and outreach to all parts of our community. Involving the passing of the torch from one hand to another through the stadium until the Olympic torch at the top of the stands was lit, this event succeeded in highlighting the contributions of gay and lesbian senior citizens. The six people in the relay were all elders — all walked their piece except the first and the last. The first was in a wheelchair, holding the torch while pushed by a support person. The last, a community activist since 1945, ran lightly up the steps to the torch. It was a vision in striking opposition to the traditional Olympic scene, and it created a roar of respect and approval from the standing crowds.

The torch was lit, and the athletes took their oath of honor. By 5 o'clock the last speech was spoken and the last song was sung, and the actual games began.

The Events

The sports events were: basketball, billiards/pool, bowling, cycling, golf, marathon, physique, powerlifting, racquetball, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, triathlon, volleyball, and wrestling. There were 1,370 women competing, and 2,112 men. The performances ranged from typical city league play to truly superb, international level competition.

One of the most striking and most pleasing things about the Games was the friendliness of the different teams toward each other. Many of the basketball teams from the Bay Area knew each other from city leagues. One Berkeley player said, "I don't go to the bars much. . . . I know dykes mostly from basketball."

The affection was also evident in the ritual congratulations toward the opposing teams and the awards ceremonies after the matches. Consistently the congratulations, especially in the finals of the tournaments, took the form of hugs instead of the more traditional handshakes. From what I saw, the men hugged each other, but the women hugged each other longer than the men. The co-chairs had it the best of all however. It quickly became a ritual for them, as they placed the purple ribbon of the medal over each athlete's head, to kiss or hug each of them. They did have to put up with comments from the crowd — some of the raunchiest and funniest audience participation came at these times.

While some athletes felt there was no difference between the competitions here and in the heterosexual world, others felt that gayness affected their attitude in a positive sense. Hector Martinez, captain of the Miami men's volleyball team, emphasized the cooperative spirit he felt. "We don't consider ourselves winners, we're all winners. There's no difference. The only difference between us and the other teams is numbers. . . . It's been fantastic."

Gayness is still a mixed blessing for some: the first two athletes I interviewed didn't want their names in the paper. One softball player was proud of hitting a home run but didn't want word of it to get back to her home town. But most who participated seemed very open and proud to be out.



Eric Sigmond



Eric Sigmond



Steve Savage

Volleyball: the Center Attraction

The finals of the men's ("A" division) and of the women's volleyball both displayed great competition to a crowded gym.

In women's volleyball Seattle won third place. Berkeley and Vancouver competed for first. It seemed the match of opposites: Vancouver was tall, lean, and looked very accomplished. Berkeley on the other hand seemed to be very typical Berkeley: shorter, less tidy-looking, more variety of body sizes, with cheaper uniforms that were no match for the Vancouver outfits. The two-out-of-three match looked like an easy win for Vancouver, especially after they won the first game handily, 15-9. But the second game Berkeley came back to tie at 1-1 with a superbly played 15-10 game. But Vancouver recovered in a long, see-saw third game, and won the match with a final score of 15-10.

The most entertaining part of the game was the people cheering "B.C! B.C!," for Vancouver, British Columbia. It sounded, to me, suspiciously like they were cheering "P.C! P.C!" (politically correct) for Berkeley. Neither Vancouver nor Berkeley had ever played together as full teams before the Gay Games. Vancouver had two women fly in from Denver to join them, but the Berkeley team felt it had one-upped them: "We can top that — we'd never even seen two of our teammates before last Sunday!"

In the men's division Miami was matched against defending champions Seattle. The emotional hub of the Seattle team was a tall, handsome man named Al Castor. As his name was called at the beginning by the emcee, he was honored by an admirer who rushed down from the stands to crown him with a small, sparkling tiara. He laughed and curtsied. Pedro Pelgado was the experienced psychic center of the Miami team's play. The net action and defense was superb on both sides, the rallies were long, and the enthusiasm was high on both sides. But in the end Miami dominated the play, and won in two straight games.

The Closing Ceremonies

The festivity and music for the closing ceremonies

started on Sunday at 10 a.m. and lasted until after 5 p.m.: square dancers, Gay and Lesbian Marching Bands of America, the Greater Bay Area Choruses, Flag Corps, baton twirlers, The Golden Gate Precision Dancers, and individual singers. The Procession of Athletes was just as joyous as at the opening ceremonies, but it seemed more casual, the crowd more intimate and friendly than proud and reverential. The athletes looked stunning: each held a big helium balloon with one of the colors of the rainbow as she/he walked in. All were drunk with fulfillment or at least contentment, many had their medal or medals proudly hung around their necks. Some threw beach balls into the crowd. Some men came in drag replete with tank tops to show off their "feminine attributes." As Ruth Hastings sang, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," the field full of athletes let their balloons fly into the sky.

The well-known writer and San Francisco *Chronicle* columnist Armistead Maupin spoke as the master of ceremonies for the closing festivities. He spoke seriously and more angrily than anyone else had about homosexual pride. Said Maupin, "We hereby give notice that we are fully vested citizens of this world, and we deserve the rights and privileges thereof."

Maupin was one of the few speakers to refer to the lawsuit with the Olympic committee over the right to use the name "Gay Olympic Games." The U.S. Olympic Committee (U.S.O.C.) had denied Waddell and San Francisco Arts & Athletics (S.F.A.A.) the right to use the term for the first Games in 1982. The suit has gone through the courts, acquiring in the process \$96,000 in U.S.O.C. lawyer's fees that U.S.O.C. demanded S.F.A.A. pay. The S.F.A.A. is now awaiting word on their request to hear the case from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Referring to the suit, Maupin shared his "private fantasy: that the Olympics committee would finally relent and say, yes, okay, Tom (Waddell, President, Board of Directors, Gay Games II), you can have the word, and Tom Waddell replies, 'Thank you very much but you can keep your god damn word, we've done very fine without it!'" Much to the pleasure of the crowd, Maupin also insinuated that the reason the Olympic committee was reluc-

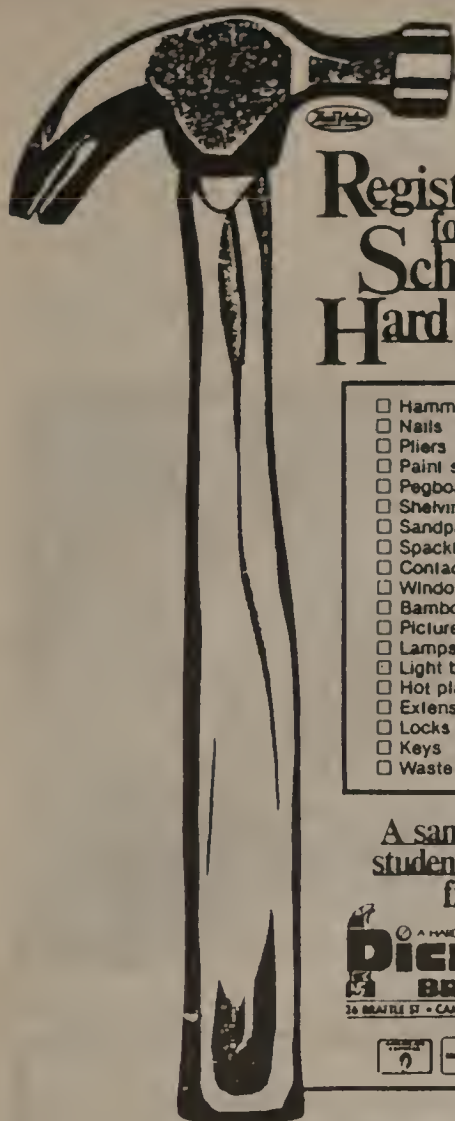
tant to give up the word was because most of the athletes at the Olympics were gay already.

Maupin hit the gut of most athletes and crowd members, though, with his insistence on a gay morality: "The operative word here is gay, not Olympics, the operative word is honesty, not competition. . . . A gold medal here doesn't mean a god damn thing if you can't show it at home."

In his closing address, Games founder Tom Waddell announced the location for the 1990 Games to be Vancouver, Canada. He said that the aim had never been to limit the Games to San Francisco, but merely to keep the Games here until the philosophy and the sheer fact of them was well established. The organizers hoped that the Gay Games will now become a truly international event.

In his remarks, Waddell spoke of the Games as an example of tolerance in diversity. "The captain of one of our gay softball teams is straight, and Black, and felt like he was with family." He revised his earlier opinion of gay people as a minority, saying, "We are an alternative. It's simple: We like anyone who likes us!" He also spoke of the Games as an example to the rest of society: "We have demonstrated tolerance, friendship, and love, and shown what we can achieve. . . . We are the teachers of the '80s, and we are on the move!"

The headline performance was Jennifer Holliday, star of the Broadway show *Dreamgirls*, who gave a rousing, hour-long concert. After Holliday's performance came the party. Dance music started on the excellent sound system, and the gates were opened between the field and the stands. The crowd joined the athletes in a joyful, friendly closing ceremony of dance, caught under the spell of blue skies and good memories.



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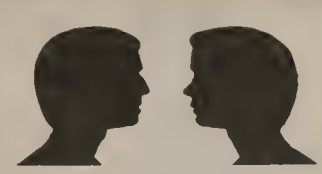
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Gay Flicks in Het Fest

Continued from page 10

'nigh', *Mother* is not to be missed.

For those who saw early promotional materials, there's disappointing news that the screening of Margarethe von Trotta's *Rosa Luxemburg* has been cancelled. Look for it to hit the U.S. in '87 after the final tinkering is finished.

By far the most important women's film at the festival is going to be Lizzie Borden's *Working Girls*. Well known for her lesbian classic *Born in Flames*, this time Borden looks at the lives and work of prostitutes in a small brothel. Shown from the women's point of view, the film is being touted as both "humorous" and "honest." *Working Girls* was not available for early screening but GCN will interview Borden while she's in Boston for the Festival reception in her honor on Friday, September 19. (See calendar for reception details.)

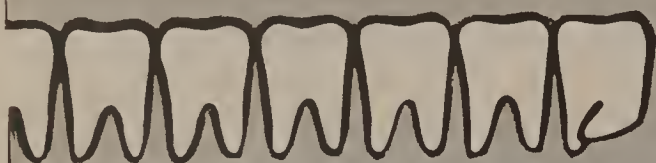
There has been much specula-

tion in the Boston movie-going community in the past month as a result of the USA Cinemas chain purchase of the Nickelodeon, Harvard Square and Janus theaters. Certainly this festival, especially with its wealth of films with gay and feminist interests, shows that

USA is willing to present a diverse and multi-faceted range of movies. Although the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival has no set date, the selections at the Boston Film Festival should, for the time being, satisfy the gay movie-going public.



Roberto Cobo (right) as drag queen in *Hell without Limits*



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THE BUSINESS GUIDE

This guide provides a listing of lesbian- and gay-owned, staffed, or supportive businesses and services. For details about having your business listed for just \$150 per year, please call Dan Page at (617) 426-4469

ACCOMMODATIONS

OASIS GUEST HOUSE
22 Edgerly Road
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 267-2262

ACUPUNCTURE

MICHAEL W. HUSSIN, R.Ac.
ACUPUNCTURE/MEDICAL ARTS CTR.
15 Kenwood St.
Somerville, MA 02144
625-8840

ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT

SPOFFORD HALL
Route 9A
Spofford, NH 03462
(603) 363-4545

AUDITING/TAXES

LILLIAN GONZALES
Certified Public Accountant
126 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
523-1060

BOOKSTORES

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CHIROPRACTORS

DR. RITA L. FIELD
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699 Somerville Av.
Somerville, MA 02143
628-9547

DR. NANCY GROSSMAN

1018 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02146
277-7703

DR. DAVID MOULTON

45 Newbury St.
Suite 333
Boston, MA 02116
266-8584

DR. JONATHAN STEIN

375 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02146
232-7200

CINEMA

TREMONT ART 1 & 2
204 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111
482-4662

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Cleaning Service
501 Shirley Street
Winthrop, MA 02152
846-5146

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New England Area
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LUNCH BUDDIES
Brookline, MA
731-8934

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DR. PAUL GROIPEN
1259 Hyde Park Ave.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
364-5500

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790 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199
353-1500

DOG TRAINING

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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

B.B.V.M. ELECTRICAL
296-0553

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Central Sq., Cambridge
497-2019

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Watertown Sq., MA
926-4289

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WOMEN
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Cambridge, MA 02139
576-1493

INSURANCE

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INSURANCE AGENCY
241 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02146
731-1015

ROGERS & DINIS

INSURANCE
404 Mass. Av.
Arlington, MA 02174
643-3040

NANCY GREENWOOD

40 Hampshire St.
Lawrence, MA 01840
683-7676

LABWORK

STATUS/MOVIDEA
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92 South St.
Boston, MA 02111
338-3014

LAWYERS

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(617) 266-8584

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Westborough, MA 01581
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DORCHESTER COUNSELING

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Dorchester, MA 02122
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COUPLES AND CHILDREN
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Cambridge, MA 02138
776-6158

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Cambridge, MA 02139
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Room 219
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Somerville, MA 02144
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Boston, MA 02116
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236-0365

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Boston, MA 02215
536-0526

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DAVERIK ASSOCIATES

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2 Woodworth St.
Dorchester, MA 02122
282-3961

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524-6822

PRINTING 131

131 Charles St.
Boston, MA 02114
723-5130

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262-7386

CENTURY 21/PARK REALTY

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Jamaica Pl., MA 02130
524-7565

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Anni Waterflow
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Pembroke, MA 02359
294-1948

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Connie: 628-4382. (10)

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Portsmouth (N.H.). Fireplaces + small
porch. \$350 w/ht. + util. and security
deposit. Avail Sept. No smk/pets/or
radical L-style, considerate and respect
privacy. Call (603) 436-3537. (10)

2 GM seek LF or GM ot shr Beverly
home. Private room and bath. \$400 in-
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Medford: 2LF sk 3rd 25+, veg, share
food some meals, no smoke, have cat,
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st, w/d, pkg. \$300+. 395-9021. (9)

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2 LF seek 3rd to share large, beautiful
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(9)

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(9)

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ing, laundry. No more cats. Quiet,
spacious-minimal drugs, alcohol. \$350
+ cheap heat. Sylvia, 492-5121. Avail.
9/1. Must be a feminist. (9)

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Prof GM 39 seeks other prof GM
for quiet locale, good neighbors,
great facilities. Near Highway.
References req. Call Paul (603)
882-7746. Aft 6PM. (12)

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2 L sk 1 L to share 3 Bdrm. Bkyd,
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smoking. Rent \$250 incl heat, avail 9/1
or 10/1. 776-4693 (11)

Need 1 or 2 people for lovely three
bedroom apt In West Roxbury. Quiet
area, laundry, parking, storage. Ab-
solutely no smokers, drug users or
pets. Rent from \$250 to \$375. Clean &
quiet person preferred. Call Mary at
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LF looking for stabel, neat, prof., LF to
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hot h2o. Sorry, no pets, non-smoker.
Avail 10/1. Call Eleanor at 876-3319,
leave message or 484-7028 eves. (9)

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2 LFs seek a third to share a large,
beautiful apt on quiet tree-lined street
just minutes from the Pond, and from
both Green and Orange lines. We're an
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household. Rent is \$275/mo, incl heat.
Avail Oct 1st. No pets, please. 524-4214.
(9)

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LF, 35, wants to live with other LF
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Write Fontaine Werth, RD, Box 503
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2 GM seek house mate for 2 bedroom
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Warm, friendly atmosphere. Sunny,
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with outgoing personality. References
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Call after 5 or leave message. (7)

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\$192.00 incl heat bt not utilities. In-
dependent but friendly household. Non-
smoker preferred; no pets. Safe
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Multiracial group for all people. Call
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140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114.
(V14.15)

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Are you lesbian, BIsexual or unsure?
Looking for a group to go to?
Come join us at BAGLY.
Call Tony, 497-8282 (V13.32)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL

Info packet on police abuse of gay
teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr
membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage &
printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will,
PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244.
(14.9)

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Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities in-
clude religious observances, potluck
dinners, discussions, folk dancing, etc.
For events, check GCN calendar. Call
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bridge, MA 02238. (V14.35)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational
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Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO
Box 174, New York, New York 10018.
(V14.23)

CONCORD MEN'S GROUP

A support group in Central N.H. for Gay
and Bi-sexual men on Fri. at 7:30 pm.
For more info, call Gay Info-line of N.H.
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60680. (10)

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(11)

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painful growth process. Therapy for ad-
dicts or their loved ones. Ms. Berni
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Troubles? Sadness, alone, drinking
more than you want to, just plain
misery? Psychotherapy does help. In-
itial interview at no charge is encourag-
ed. Ruth Chessman, M.A. (617)
964-2510. (9)

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Seeking
Friends**

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF
PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE
(Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an
Anarchist).

PRISONER PENPAL WRITERS!

Joint Venture, a penpal group for gay
male prisoners, publishes a monthly
BULLETIN with listings of prisoners,
photos and an art project. They have
also just published a booklet called
"Dear Insider" with tips on how to get
started writing prisoners, visits, and
on "coming out" support. The booklet
is free with every JV BULLETIN
membership: \$5 for 3 months, \$15 for
one year. Write Joint Venture, Box
26-8484, Chicago IL 60626. (They
especially need more outside writers
for their MANY prisoner listings.)

Transsexuals In Prison (TIP)

Second issue is out! Full of helpful info.
Write John Prowett (TIP), Box 3541, Lit-
tle Rock AR 72203. Cost is 50¢ monthly
for TS prisoners, 75¢ monthly for non-TS
prisoners, and \$2 monthly for others.

GCN readers (inside and outside): we
have received a poetry booklet put
together by the prisoners at Kansas
State Pen. which they will send to you
for FREE if you will send 7 stamps for
postage (no cash, check or m.o.
please). Send orders to H.L. White,
38058, Box 1568, Hutchinson KS
67504.

**NEW PRISONER SUPPORT
NEWSLETTER!**

Persons In Prison Exchange (PIPE)
is a new collective of people trying to
bring about an increased awareness
of the cruel and unusual conditions
in prisons today. They publish
PIPElines, with letters from
prisoners, info about prisoner sup-
port organizations. They are also
trying to help form local support
groups for different areas. Write: Al
Bouchard, PO Box 1668, Asheville
NC 28802.

**PRISONERS WRITING PRISONERS!**

States where prisoners CAN get mail
from other prisoners (usually): VER,
MASS, NY, FLA, NJ, MO, MISS,
OHIO, PENN, NC, KAN, TEX, COLO,
ORE, MONT WASH, LOU, NEB,
M A R Y
(In some of these you can't write other
prisoners in your own state).

States where prisoners CANNOT get
mail from other prisoners (or only with
difficulty): IOWA, OKLA, NEV, ID,
WV, WYO, TENN, WISC, IND.

Also, FEDERAL PRISONERS IN
ALL STATES ARE NOT ALLOWED
TO WRITE OTHER PRISONERS.
(Please send us additions and corrections
to this list. THANKX!)

Gay & Lesbian Penpals

We are a "support" group for gays
and lesbians and have no limitations
on correspondence as long as you
can find a stamp to send a letter.
Prisoners are welcome to write. Gays,
bisexuals or lesbians, write to:
GLCSE, PO Box 38777, Hollywood CA
90038.

GCN vet offers help in starting gay
program on accessible FM station in
your town. John ZEH, Box 3571, Cin-
cinnati OH 45201.

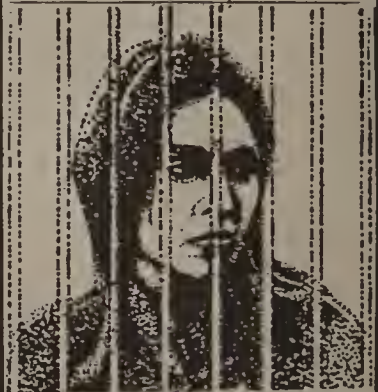
I do art work (drawings), weightlifting,
and some sports. Believe me It's a
lonely business here. A friend on the
outside (no games) would be great.
Kenny OWENS, 53310-146, H-unit,
Box 1000, Marion IL 62959.

Hello. I can receive mail from other in-
stitutions, love oral and anal sex and
spicy foods, have a release date of
11/97, love photography (and
photographs! but can't receive
polaroids), and camping. Please
write. Charles P. DUNN, 287584, B-2-5
wing, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362



31 yr old Black bi-sexual woman
seeks correspondence with others
who are sincere and seek honest
communication as I do. My interests
are too many to go into here. I am a
Dreamer. Let's share ours together!
Brenda HALL, Box 1 — VCCW,
Goochland VA 23063.

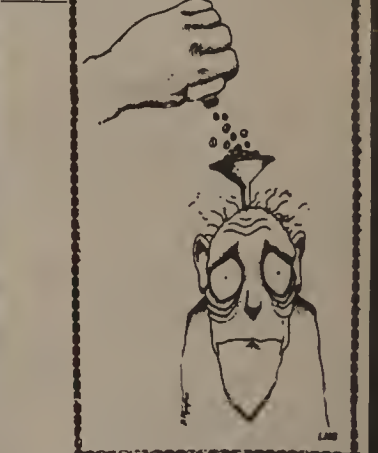
Loneliness is one of the worst feel-
ings to experience. I have much to
share in friendship. Please write
Gwen THOMPSON, PO Box 1,
Goochland VA 23063.

**ATTENTION WOMEN!!**

The new Southeastern Michigan
Women Rising in Resistance is plan-
ning an ACTION in Oct. at the
Huron Valley Women's facility to
demand that battered women in-
carcerated for killing their batterers
be immediately released. If you have
any info on such women please send
to WOMEN RISING IN
RESISTANCE, 1229 So. State, Ann
Arbor MI 48104.



Mike is interested in putting together
an article on what prisoners, 'strait'
and gay, have to say about the dif-
ferent kinds of 'sex' in prison; the
different ways people are
'forced' (persuaded) to have sex; the
different ways sex is used to have
fun or to show who's boss, the
kinds of sex 'roles' people get into,
etc; and especially the scuttlebutt
about who's 'really' gay among the
'butch' (including women!!) types
(or are they really mostly 'strait',
poor bunnies...) If you want to help
me, please send your ideas to
Mike/GCN, 167 Tremont, Boston
MA 02111. (Please don't expect
answers to all these letters; there are
several hundred of you! (beauties)
(smile)

**Prisoners and Friends!**

Let gay organizations in your
area know what's happening
with lesbians and gay men
behind bars; regularly - to raise
their consciousness little by lit-
tle and increase the chances of
contact between people inside
and out. GCN will send a list of
gay organizations in your area.

Tall, sweet, sassy, sexy, pre-op (m-f)
TS lesbian, 32, of French-Italian de-
cent, desperately in need of employ-
ment and place to call home. Eligible
for parole Jan 87. Able and willing to
go out of state. Please help this lady.
Roberta (Bunny) BARRETT, 76C 197,
135 State St., Auburn NY 13024.

M—F TS needs legal aid
I need some legal help to file a civil
rights/sexual harrassment suit
against some guards here. Also need
some info on hormones and elec-
trolysis. If you can help please write
Deedee GODFREY, 909602, Box 520,
Walla Walla WA 99362.

Anyone knowing the location of
DAVID TECHTER, formerly of Lincoln
Park IL, please contact me. Ray
Latham, Box 700, Jessup MD 20794.

Full blooded Irish prisoner, dark wavy
brown hair, bisexual, interested in
writing a bisexual or straight
homosexual person, male or female
or even a little of both. I'm currently
locked away in a prison cage, a real
bummer but yet true. I can't promise
much but I promise I'll answer all
mature letters. Michael Patrick
GAVIN, 01839-045, Box 1000, Marion
IL 62959.



CALENDAR

September 13 to September 26

13 saturday

Boston — Black & White Party to benefit New England Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf. 74 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 7PM-midnight. \$5. BYOB, potluck. Info: Sam, 436-6866 or 236-1673.

Quincy — Quincy Lesbian & Gay Alliance business meeting. 7-9PM. Info: Karen, 767-2336 or De, 328-5567.

Cambridge — Dyketones presents a 50's & 60's Rock'n Roll dance for women & their friends. First Church, 11 Garden St. \$6, \$10, \$25. 8pm-1AM. To benefit Allegra Productions. Wheelchair accessible. Prize for best 50's costume. Info: 547-1378.



Bright Morning Star, 26 friday

14 sunday

Boston — Freedom Trall Band in concert. Parkman Bandstand, The Common. 2-4PM. Free. Info: Clinton, 367-3298.

Boston — New England Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf. 74 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 1-4PM. Info: Sam, 436-6866 or 236-1673.

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors picnic-potluck. Jamaica Pond, ODT Driveway entrance. 3PM. Non-alcoholic beverages only, please. Info: 522-3894 or 522-6090.

Provincetown — Ten Percent Revue, an original musical. Gifford House Cabaret. \$6. 8PM. Running through 9/21. Info: 487-0688.

Brookline — BBANGL potluck for lesbians & gay men in Brookline, Brighton & Allston. 6PM. Info: Gary, 782-6479 or Mitchell, 738-0656.

Arlington — Wheatstone Bridge house concert/garage sale. 105 Pleasant St. 7PM concert, 1PM garage sale. \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. Info: 641-2131.

Cambridge — Black & White Men Together meeting and potluck. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 1-5PM. Discussion topic: "Black & white Interaction—social and sexual." All welcome. Info: Tom, 536-3392 or Craig, 321-4382.

15 monday

Boston — Conference: "Judaism, War and the Nuclear Arms Race," with Elie Wiesel and Carl Sagan. Boston University. 12:30-9:30PM. Info: 542-0478.

16 tuesday

Boston — Legacy, a drop-in social for gay/lesbian elders & their friends. Clarendon St. YWCA. 6-8PM. Info: Ann Maguire, 725-4907.

17 wednesday

Boston — Lesbian Rights Task Force of Boston NOW meeting. Boston NOW Office, Suite 20, 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7PM. Info: 782-1056.

Bridgewater — South Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Social get-togethers each week. Info: 293-5183 or 293-7906.

Cambridge — Bisexual Women's Network meeting. New Words, 186 Hampshire St. 7-9PM. Info: 497-9555.

Cambridge — Sex & the older lesbian, discussion. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Women 50+ and newcomers welcome. Info: 661-3633.

18 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 8PM-on. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.



Holy Terror, 19 friday

Boston — Amethyst Women Anniversary Dance. Clarendon St. YWCA. 9PM-1AM. \$4 more if/less if. An alcohol & drug-free event for alcoholic lesbians & their women friends.

Boston — Freda Rosen, lesbian sexologist and social therapist, leads a workshop on "coupling." UMass Park Square, 100 Arlington St. \$15, sliding scale. available. Info: 524-7710.

21 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors Brunch at Doyle's. Washington St. 11AM. Newcomers welcome.

Salem, NH — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain day trip to Mystery Hill. Carpooling can be arranged. \$4. Info: 522-6253.

Cambridge — Lesbian Potluck for friends & neighbors. 6-8PM. Info: 576-0723.

Watertown — Monthly meeting of GLOW. 7PM. Info: Rich/Kevin, 926-5371 or Deb, 924-6044.

Jamaica Plain — Disabled Lesbians discussion & potluck. 1-3PM. Wheelchair accessible. Not signed. Info: 524-1890.

22 monday

Cambridge — Bereavement Group for Lesbians & Gay Men, sponsored by Hospice of Cambridge. Schedule negotiable. 35 Bigelow St. Info: 489-3806.

Boston — Molly Ruggles Trio in concert. Studio Red Top at Villa Victoria Cultural Center, 85 W. Newton St., corner of Tremont St., South End. 7:30. \$6. Info: 492-8436.

Boston — Boston Area Rape Crisis Center hotline volunteer training. Seven-week intensive training. No experience necessary. Info: 492-RAPE.

23 tuesday

Haverhill — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance coming out discussion group. Northern Essex Community College. Info: 745-3848.

24 wednesday

Cambridge — Boston Bisexual Men's Network, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, basement, 1150 Mass. Ave. 7:30PM.

Boston — "To Live with Dignity—Creating a Nicaraguan Constitution," a forum. Northeastern Univ., 360 Huntington Ave., Richards Hall, Room 200. 7:30PM. \$3. Info: 492-8699 or 227-7335.

26 friday

Somerville — Bright Morning Star and Tom Wilson Weinberg in concert to benefit GCN. Somerville Theater, Davis Sq. 8PM. \$7.50 advance, \$9 at door, more/less. Info: 426-4469.

Worcester — Take Back the Night march/rally. Crystal Park. 6:30PM.

Randolph — First Annual Harvest Moon Dance. Randolph Country Club. \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Info: Carole, 396-1039 (4-9PM).

note this!

First Time, Truth or Dare, audio tapes produced by Sumaje Tapes, P.O. Box 30318, Philadelphia, PA 19103. To benefit Open Home Lesbian Center.

Sumaje Tapes, a Philadelphia-based production company, has come out with two cassette tapes of "sexual fun" for the discriminating dyke listener. *First Time* and *Truth or Dare*, both available by mail or in local bookstores, consist of short, comic vignettes centered around erotic situations recognizable to every lesbian listener: family gatherings with the girlfriend, the bar scene, fantasies and the old tried-and-true car make-out script marred by an intrusive stick shift.

Aside from providing steamy entertainment, these tapes are endowed with an earthy humor and realism that is a positive affirmation of the lesbian identity. There is familiarity here; images are real and not plasticized by slick marketing techniques; and the rough-around-the-edges sound quality only serves to enhance this effect. One might very well be eavesdropping on one's own friends. So, for those dykes interested in spicing up their tired repertoire of easy listening, invite over a few friends (or don't invite over a few friends), flick on the tape player, and settle down to some pure lesbian entertainment.

— Ann Fry

The envelope please.

Provincetown's past premier performers announced their choices for the ninth annual Golden Gull awards at a celebration on August 25. Ms. Penny Hamilton took the title of Best Female Performer and Mr. Diana Hutton that of Best Male Performer. Delaria and Strobel, and the Dyketones, tied for the Best Performing Group award.

Ten Percent Revue received a special award for Best Theater, a category awarded only twice before in Golden Gull history. The *Revue*, written by Tom Wilson Weinberg, is scheduling dates around the east coast this Fall. Look for them in Philadelphia, October 15-19, and in Springfield, Mass., December 13-14.

Proceeds from this year's awards event will benefit the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. Preston Babet, chair of the Support Group, told GCN the funds will be used for direct services for people with AIDS: transportation, food, rent and other necessities.

Horace Stowman and Mark Cross, owners of the Ocean's Inn guest house, originated the Golden Gull idea and have hosted the awards ceremony in past years. This year's festivities were held at the Pilgrim House.

— Loie Hayes



Mr. Diana Hutton, Best Male Performer, 1986

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GayCommunity News

Win fun and valuable prizes while supporting your community newspaper

GCN RAFFLE!

1st Prize:

The choice could be yours:

3 day trip for two to MONTREAL

OR

4 day trip to ATLANTIC CITY

Or equivalent credit on deluxe Hawaii vacation

donated by ITA Travel Services member of I.G.T.A. (617) 776-4340

Drawing will be held at Bright Morning Star/Tom Wilson Weinberg concert to benefit GCN, Friday, Sept. 26, at the Somerville Theater.

Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Other Prizes Include

HIGHLANDS INN, White Mountains Guesthouse
Double room for two nights during Oct. - Dec.

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY, two pairs of tickets. Voted
Best Musical by Boston magazine.

MARSHA TAYLOR, two 1-hour voice or piano
lessons.

FAIRBANKS INN, Provincetown Guesthouse
Double room for two nights during Oct. - Dec.

BETH WALSH, 1-hour massage

WOMANCRAFTS, Provincetown, MA
Feminist jewelry, books, records, clothing, gifts, etc.
\$15 gift certificate

FRITZ, South End, Boston

Sat. or Sun. brunch for two with complementary
Bloody Marys.

DR. JONATHAN STEIN, Brookline MA
Chiropractic physician

Initial examination, history, and consultation.

BRIAN CUMMINGS, South End, Boston
Haircut

RADICAL AMERICA, 1 year subscription

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS, 1 year subscription

SOJOURNER, Feminist monthly

2 year subscription (\$26 value)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN, 1 year subscription

FAG RAG, All existing back issues plus new issues
for 1 year.

TICKETS: 15/\$10, 7/\$5, 1/\$1

For tickets, mail the form below to:

GCN Raffle 167 Tremont Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111

☐	Yes, I'd love to take a chance! Send me raffle tickets at 15/\$10, 7/\$5, 1/\$1
☐	Yes, I'd love to see the concert, too! Send me concert tickets at \$7.50 each (\$9 at door)
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Phone: _____	
I enclose a check or money order for \$ _____	

☐	Yes, I'd love to take a chance! Send me raffle tickets at 15/\$10, 7/\$5, 1/\$1
☐	Yes, I'd love to see the concert, too! Send me concert tickets at \$7.50 each (\$9 at door)
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Phone: _____	
I enclose a check or money order for \$ _____	